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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Hack exposes law enforcement officers who signed up to join anti-government Oath Keepers

The law enforcement officer described what he could offer the Oath Keepers:

"I have a wide variety of law enforcement experience, including undercover operations, surveillance and SWAT," one wrote on the membership application.

This man, who had sworn to uphold the law, was signing up to join an armed, extremist, anti-government group.

The Oath Keepers trade in conspiracy theories and wild interpretations of the U.S. Constitution. Its members have been involved in armed standoffs with the federal government. Some face charges in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection.

A massive trove of data was hacked from the Oath Keepers website by the whistleblower group Distributed Denial of Secrets. One file appears to provide names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of almost 40,000 members.

More than 200 people identified themselves as active or retired law enforcement officers. USA TODAY confirmed 20 of them are still serving. Another 20 have retired since joining the Oath Keepers.

These men are almost certainly just a small fraction of the law enforcement officers who joined the militia over the years.

Founded after the election of Barack Obama in 2009 by Yale Law School graduate Stewart Rhodes, the Oath Keepers refuse to acknowledge the authority of the federal government. Members must abide by a declaration of conspiracy-laden orders they will refuse

to enforce, including disarming the American people.

Rhodes has claimed that the group, which experts believe is the largest unauthorized militia in the country, is made up primarily of active and retired law enforcement officers and military personnel.

Just one Oath Keeper serving in a police or sheriff's department is too many, said Daryl Johnson, a security consultant and former senior analyst for domestic terrorism at the Department of Homeland Security.

More concerning is the fact that the Oath Keepers make their members swear an oath of allegiance, much like the police and military, Johnson said. That creates a dangerous conflict of interest.

"They look at the U.S. government as an enemy," he said. "When it comes down to a crisis situation or an investigation involving other militias, where is this person's allegiance? Most likely with the Oath Keepers and not the police department."

James Holsinger, a lieutenant with the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Maryland, is on the list. Holsinger is running for sheriff.

He did not respond to several requests for comment.

In 20 cases, law enforcement agencies or the men themselves confirmed they were still employed there.

Constable Joe Wright, of Collin County, Texas, said he joined in 2012, when he was running for office for the first time.

"To be honest, I felt pressured to join it in this county for political support," Wright said. "The Oath Keepers, if you didn't support them you were going to get bad reviews."

"I don't support them," Wright said. "I'm not into radical. I'm into doing my job."

Several officers admitted signing up but claimed their membership expired long ago.

Other departments have previously suspended or investigated officers for associating with the group.

It's unclear from the hacked data exactly when the officers in question signed up. Experts on the Oath Keepers said the militia has certainly changed since its founding in 2009.

What started during the Obama administration as a group to fight what it saw as federal government overreach has developed into a more hateful and paranoid organization, said Heidi Beirich, of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism. She has tracked the Oath Keepers since their inception.

"Rhodes and company have become much more radical," Beirich said.

Nonetheless, the Oath Keepers was always an extremist group, she said. It was founded in nonsensical and hateful conspiracy theories and always had an anti-government bent.

"I don't think police officers should be involved with extremist groups," Beirich said. "You are a part of the government, you represent the full, whole community as a police officer, and there's obviously a problem when you're in a group that's questioning the government's right to do the things that the government has the right to do."

J.J. MacNab, a fellow at George Washington University's Program on Extremism, said she understands how law enforcement officers could have joined the Oath Keepers years ago without knowing much about it.

"People join stuff all the time without doing any due diligence," she said. "And for years the only due diligence you could have done was on the Southern Poverty Law Center's website, and most police officers would immediately dismiss that as biased."

For most Americans, joining the Oath Keepers is an act protected by the First Amendment. But several Supreme Court cases have established that police departments can place broad limits on what their employees may say or write, and what organizations they belong to.

Most officers are under the false impression that the First Amendment gives them the right to say just about anything on social media or in public, said Valerie Van Brocklin, a former federal prosecutor who trains police departments on using social media.

"The vast majority of cops in the country don't understand this," Van Brocklin said. "A public employer does not have to pay you for your insubordination or dishonorable conduct that sullies the badge and the uniform." - www.usatoday.com October 2, 2021

U.S. judge says DC jail violated civil rights of Capitol riot defendant

A federal judge on Wednesday held top officials at the Washington, D.C., Department of Corrections in civil contempt, after ruling they violated the civil rights of a U.S. Capitol riot defendant by impeding his access to medical care.

"I find that the civil rights of the defendant have been abridged. I don't know if it's because he is a Jan. 6 defendant or not, but I find that this matter should be referred to the attorney general of the United States ... for a civil rights investigation," U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said."

Lamberth's verbal order came after the judge previously threatened to hold DC Department of Corrections Director Quincy Booth and Warden Wanda Patten in contempt for failing to turn over notes from a doctor for defendant Christopher Worrell.

Worrell, a self-proclaimed member of the far-right Proud Boys group, is facing numerous criminal charges for his role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

Worrell broke his hand in May. In June, an orthopedic surgeon recommended he have surgery to repair it.

Since then, however, Worrell has been unable to get the surgery

because the Department of Corrections has not provided the doctor's notes to the U.S. Marshals Service despite repeated requests.-- www.reuters.com October 13, 2021

Kenosha police 'deputized' militia ahead of deadly shooting, lawsuit claims

A man shot by U.S. teenager Kyle Rittenhouse during racial justice protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin has filed a lawsuit against local law enforcement he accuses of deputizing a "roving militia" of white nationalists.

Gaige Grosskreutz filed the lawsuit in federal court on Thursday. He was one of three people shot by Rittenhouse, two of whom died in the August 2020 shooting.

"It was not a mistake that Kyle Rittenhouse would kill two people and maim a third on that evening," Grosskreutz's lawsuit said. "It was a natural consequence of the actions of the Kenosha Police Department and Kenosha Sheriff's office in deputizing a roving militia to 'protect property' and 'assist in maintaining order.'"

Sam Hall, an attorney representing Kenosha County and Sheriff David Beth, said that the allegations were false and that he would seek to have the complaint dismissed.

Grosskreutz's lawsuit names Kenosha county and city, along with the police and sheriff's department and individual officers.

Rittenhouse is awaiting trial in November on charges of first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree reckless homicide in the killings of Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, and attempted first degree intentional homicide and use of a dangerous weapon in Grosskreutz's shooting. Rittenhouse also is charged with weapons violations and other crimes during the protest.

Grosskreutz's lawsuit said that members of a militia called the Kenosha Guard and others arrived at the protest at the invitation via Facebook of Kevin Mathewson, a former Kenosha City Council member. It said they were openly brandishing weapons and threatening those taking part in demonstrations protesting the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha.

The lawsuit said unnamed militia members intended to kill protesters they said were rioting and looting.

Mathewson sent an email to the police chief, which according to the lawsuit said, "as you know, I am the commander of the Kenosha Guard, a

local militia" and that "we are mobilizing tonight and have about 3,000 RSVP's."

Mathewson, who works as a private investigator, told Reuters that the Kenosha Guard was actually an "ad hoc" group of ordinary citizens, including Black and Latino members, who had never met before the night of the Rittenhouse shooting, and never carried out any training.

Mathewson said the group organized to protect their neighborhoods after racial justice protests held a few months before the Rittenhouse shooting resulted in some local businesses being burned and looted. He rejected any notion that the Kenosha Guard was a white nationalist militia.

The lawsuit said the social media posts made clear that the militia members were not at the protest to protect local businesses or contracted for security by any local stores.-- www.reuters.com October 15, 2021

Hearing may settle use-of-force experts at Rittenhouse trial

A judge may decide at a hearing Monday whether use-of-force experts can testify at Kyle Rittenhouse's trial for shooting three people during a protest against police brutality in Wisconsin last year.

Rittenhouse goes on trial Nov. 1 for the shootings in Kenosha on Aug. 25, 2020, two days after police in that city shot a Black man, Jacob Blake, while responding to a domestic disturbance.

Rittenhouse, 18, of Antioch, Illinois, was among several people who responded to calls on social media to take up arms and come to Kenosha to respond to the protests.

Rittenhouse's attorneys are seeking testimony from use-of-force expert John Black to bolster their case that Rittenhouse acted in self-defense. Prosecutors have asked Judge Bruce Schroeder to disqualify Black, arguing that his expertise is in police, not civilian, use of force and is not relevant to Rittenhouse's actions.

Monday's hearing will include testimony from Robert Willis, a use-of-force expert whom Assistant District Attorney Thomas Binger has said he will use if Black is allowed to testify.

Other motions remain for Schroeder to decide before trial. One, from prosecutors, asks Schroeder to forbid defense attorneys from describing the three men Rittenhouse shot as rioters, looters or arsonists. Binger argues there's no proof any of the three

were engaged in such activities the night they were shot.

Prosecutors also want Schroeder to block any reference to Rosenbaum's and Huber's criminal records.

They are also seeking to stop the defense from introducing any evidence that police offered water to Rittenhouse and other armed citizens, or that they said, "We appreciate you guys, we really do," to them.

Rittenhouse attorney Mark Richards argued that such testimony is relevant to whether Rittenhouse was acting recklessly by being on the streets of Kenosha with a weapon that night.

"If the conduct was so obviously dangerous, it seems logical that law enforcement would have either removed the defendant from the situation via arrest, or informed him that he was to leave the area because of his actions," Richards wrote in a motion. "They did neither."

Many conservatives have flocked to support Rittenhouse, calling him a patriot and making him a symbol for gun rights and raising \$2 million for his bail. Others, including some liberals and activists, portray him as a domestic terrorist and say he made a volatile situation worse. — apnews.com October 25, 2021

World Economic Forum to launch 'great narrative' initiative following the great reset

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is looking to establish a "great narrative" following the great reset agenda with the upcoming launch of the "Great Narrative" initiative.

The WEF and partners will brainstorm ideas for their narrative at the "Great Narrative Meeting" taking place in Dubai in November.

"The Great Narrative initiative and meeting in Dubai will be a powerful catalyst to shape the contours of a more prosperous and inclusive future for humanity that is also more respectful of nature," said WEF Founder Klaus Schwab on the *Davos Agenda*.

At the great narrative meeting in November, "Top thinkers from a variety of geographies and disciplines — including futurists, scientists and philosophers — will contribute fresh ideas for the future. Their reflections will be shared in a forthcoming book, *The Great Narrative*, expected for publication in January 2022.

The idea of a great narrative is something that the French philosopher Jean-Francois Lyotard called a "**grand**

narrative," (aka "**metanarrative**") which, according to Philo-Notes, "**functions to legitimize power, authority, and social customs**" — everything that the great reset is trying to achieve.

Marxism creates "a society in which all individuals can develop their talents to the fullest" is one example of a grand narrative.

Historically, grand narratives like that of Marxism ignore science, disregard alternative perspectives, and censor dissenting ideas.

In his 1979 book, "The Post Modern Condition: A Report on Knowledge," Lyotard argued, "The grand narrative has lost its credibility, regardless of what mode of unification it uses, regardless of whether it is a speculative narrative or a narrative of emancipation."

The WEF claims that its great reset agenda will help emancipate society from the unsustainable and inequitable practices of shareholder capitalism.

Geneticists, futurists, philosophers, scientists, and special interest groups that tow the great reset line will be the ones shaping the great narrative. The World Economic Forum is keenly aware of the philosophy behind narratives and how to use it to manipulate human behavior.

According to a WEF blog post from 2015 entitled, "How Narratives Influence Human Behavior," the guest author from the World Bank argues that "a good narrative soundly beats even the best data."

"In the battle for hearts and minds of human beings, narrative will consistently outperform data in its ability to influence human thinking and motivate human action," he writes.

The author goes on to warn, "A false dichotomy has emerged between the use of narrative and data analysis; either can be equally misleading or helpful in conveying truth about causal effects."

According to *Adventist Today*, most religions behave like grand narratives in that "they seek to explain all of life, and other ways of looking at the world are interpreted as delusions or deceptions."

Through its great narrative initiative, will the WEF attempt to legitimize its top-down, authoritarian great reset by placing its ideology upon a pedestal on the same moral level of the world's great religions?

Next comes the great narrative, which the Davos elites will use in an attempt to legitimize their great reset agenda.

Once the great reset has its great narrative, anything that goes against the narrative can be tossed aside as conspiracy, misinformation, or extremism that must be censored and suppressed for the greater, collective good. -- <https://sociable.co> Oct. 2021

The Right to Bear Arms: A Constitutional Right of the People or a Privilege of the Ruling Class?

By Stephen P. Halbrook

Published by Bombardier Books (2021)
SUMMARY

This is the first scholarly study of the history of the right to bear and carry arms outside of the home, a right held dear by Americans before, during, and after the Founding period; it rebuts attempts by anti-gun advocates to rewrite history and "cancel" the Founding generation's lived experiences bearing firearms.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized the individual right to keep and bear arms, but courts in states that have extreme gun control restrictions apply tests that often balance the right away. This book demonstrates that the right peaceably to carry firearms is a fundamental right recognized by the text of the Second Amendment and is part of our American history and tradition.

Halbrook's scholarly work is an exhaustive historical treatment of the fundamental, individual right to carry firearms outside of the home. Halbrook traces this right from its origins in England though American colonial times, the American Revolution, the Constitution's ratification debates, and then though the antebellum and postbellum periods, including the history surrounding the enactment of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

-- <https://stephenhalbrook.com>

Commentary: *The Right to Keep and Bear Arms* is an intriguing study of the history of the right to keep and bear arms in the home.. As such, it rebuts attempts by anti-gun advocates to rewrite history and "cancel" the Founding generation's experiences with firearms. It's a must-read for anyone interested in this fundamental right.

Read this book and you'll be able to cite the facts to anyone when the mainstream media attempts to twist this issue with dishonest narratives.

Frank Minter, Editor-in Chief,
America's first Freedom

Private Citizens, Local Law Enforcement Facing Ammo Shortage

A surge in new gun purchases has triggered a shortage of ammunition.

Several Washington, D.C.-area police departments said they have noticed a dwindling supply of bullets being sold by manufacturers and distributors.

The ammunition shortage also creates hurdles and headaches for private gun shops and owners, some of whom report skyrocketing prices.

"I talk to police departments everywhere — from federal, state and local departments — daily. They are struggling to find ammunition to even qualify the officers," said Curt Sebastian, co-owner of SSG Tactical gun shop in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Sebastian said a box of ammo that traditionally sells for \$9 to \$14 now costs about \$50.

FBI records reviewed by the News4 I-Team show a spike in new gun purchase background checks. The number of people applying for a firearms background check jumped by almost 1 million each month since the beginning of the pandemic. The wave of new buyers has drained the ammunition supply, Sebastian said. He said 85% of his customers have been first-time gun owners.

Acting Arlington Police Chief Andy Penn said right now his department has a large amount of ammunition that's been on backorder for months.

Hagerstown Police Chief Paul Kifer said his department switched from 40-caliber firearms to 9mm firearms, in part because 9mm ammunition was easier to procure.

Multiple law enforcement officials told the I-Team a new officer needs almost 1,000 bullets for first-year training and certification. They said returning officers require almost 100 each for annual training.

Gun owners said they also need bullets for training and are concerned about the shrinking supply of bullets.

"If you don't train, when it comes down to it, in any stressful situation you lose your fine motor skills," Greg Newman of Spotsylvania County said.

Newman said prospective ammunition buyers are experiencing a shortage similar to the panic runs made on toilet paper and sanitary wipes in March 2020. -- nbcwashington.com May 5, 2021

Armed robber shot in face by armed victim in Texas just days after permitless carry begins

An armed robber was shot in the face in Texas when his victim pulled out his own gun and shot him, just days after a Texas law went into effect allowing residents to carry handguns without permits.

"He's conscious and breathing right now," Houston Police Department Lieutenant R. Willkens said.

The incident unfolded Wednesday evening when the victim was walking to a local Shell gas station to make a few purchases, SBG San Antonio reported.

The suspect was dropped off by a driver, and approached the victim by lifting his shirt to expose a gun and demanded he fork over any valuables.

The victim, however, shot the suspect.

No charges are expected to be brought against the victim, as he was defending himself.

"He's being extremely cooperative. He has no criminal history whatsoever," Willkens said of the victim.

The incident comes after Gov. Greg Abbott signed a "constitutional carry" bill into law allowing Texans to carry handguns in public without going through training or obtaining permits.

"You could say that I signed into law today some laws that protect gun rights," Abbott said at the bill signing in June. "But today, I signed documents that instilled freedom in the Lone Star State." The law went into effect on Sept. 1. — foxnews.com Sept. 9, 2021

Study shows concealed handgun permits soared during pandemic

The number of concealed handgun permits soared in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic and has increased over 10% since the end of last year.

According to a study conducted by the Crime Prevention Research Center, the number of concealed handgun permits surged to 21.52 million in 2020, a 48% increase since 2016 and a 10.5% increase from the same time last year.

The study says that 8.3% of American adults have permits. In 15 states, more than 10% of adults have permits. The highest concealed carry rate is in Alabama where 32.1% of adults have permits followed by Indiana and Iowa where the rate is 21.6% and 16.5% respectively.

Additionally, the study found that permit holders tend to be law abiding.

"Permit holders are extremely law-abiding," the study says. "In Florida and Texas, permit holders are convicted of firearms related violations at one-twelfth of the rate at which police officers are convicted."

John R. Lott Jr, president of the Crime Prevention Research Center, told Fox News, "The reason for the increase is increased crime and concerns that police aren't able to do their job and that large numbers of inmates released from jails and prisons."

"These numbers are particularly topical given that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the concealed carry case of New York State Rifle & Pistol Association V. Corlett in November," the study states. "That case will determine whether those requesting permits need to provide a 'proper cause' for obtaining a permit. The eight states with that rule have issued permits to only 1.24% of their adult population."

If the "proper cause" regulation were to be overturned, the study suggests that 2.3 million more permits could be issued in the affected states.

The study also notes that women and minorities make up a significant percentage of the increase in gun permits.

— foxnews.com October 6, 2021

Taliban 'Collect' Weapons from Civilians as They 'No Longer Need' Personal Protection'

By Tyler Durden

The Taliban were quick to humiliate the Biden administration, taking over the country just days after US forces departed, but now that they are fully in control, they appear set on pursuing one of progressive America's core tenets: confiscating weapons.

Taliban fighters in the Afghan capital, Kabul, started collecting weapons from civilians on Monday because "people no longer need them for personal protection", a Taliban official told Reuters.

"We understand people kept weapons for personal safety. They can now feel safe. We are not here to harm innocent civilians," the official told Reuters.

Or, as Spike Cohen summarized: "Give us your guns. We will protect you." — Spike Cohen (@RealSpikeCohen) August 16, 2021 - www.zerohedge.com Aug. 16, 2021

AR-15s Are Why Leftists Can't Commit Taliban Atrocities Here

By Mark Overstreet

In Afghanistan the world is again seeing that radical Islam is an ideology premised on murdering non-believers and using that example to intimidate everyone else. Historically, the same has been true of leftism, when its adherents have achieved totalitarian control.

Leftists don't have totalitarian control in America yet, but they have given us a heads-up by rolling out mock guillotines during their protests and riots, posing for photographs with mock-ups of President Trump's guillotined head, talking about burning down the White House, among other things.

They are working toward totalitarian control by opening the border to people they think are future Democrat voters; proposing that felons, illegal aliens, and minors be allowed to vote; threatening to pack the Supreme Court; pushing federal legislation to take over election rules to benefit the Democrat Party.

Even if they had totalitarian control, they would still need a willing army to disarm, then round up and kill or imprison their opponents. The transformation of the military is being continued by the Biden administration and its Marxism-enabling sycophants among the military's senior commissioned and non-commissioned officer ranks, but it is not complete, particularly in the military's combat arms elements.

However, even if the left had a willing army, it still would not be able to impose the tyranny for which it lusts because, unlike its victims in other countries, the American people are armed. Contrary to Biden's claim that Americans would not be able to protect their liberty without F-15s and nuclear weapons, it is still true today, as Alexander Hamilton wrote in "The Federalist Papers," No. 29, that the Army "can never be formidable to the liberties of the people, while there is a large body of citizens little if at all inferior to them in discipline and the use of arms, who stand ready to defend their own rights and those of their fellow citizens."

James Madison, who introduced the Bill of Rights in the House of Representatives, made the same point in "The Federalist Papers," No. 46, writing, "Let a regular army . . . be entirely at the devotion of the federal government; still it would not be going too far to say, that the state

governments with the people on their side would be able to repel the danger (with) a militia . . . of citizens with arms in their hands, officered by men chosen from among themselves, fighting for their common liberties, and united and conducted by governments possessing their affections and confidence."

The citizens Hamilton and Madison had in mind today include millions who own AR-15s and other firearms the Democrats have been trying to ban, including thousands of military veterans who know how to fight and tens upon tens of thousands of civilians they and their students have trained.

Together, these armed Americans would vastly outnumber those who would be sent against them.

The upcoming anniversary of the radical Islamic terrorist attack in New York City in 2001 precedes by two days the anniversary of the Sept. 13, 2004, expiration of Democrats' attempt to ban the manufacture of some of the best terrorism- and tyranny-fighting rifles on the planet.

In 1988 a civilian disarmament activist group, having recognized its failure to ban handguns proposed "a new topic," "assault weapons" concerning AR-15s, similar rifles, and detachable ammunition magazines.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed into law Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) legislation banning the manufacture of the guns and magazines. Fortunately, the ban was written incompetently, so manufacturers were able to continue making AR-15s and similar rifles in slightly modified form; more than three-quarters of a million AR-15s were made while the "ban" was in effect.

Limited to 10 years, the ban expired in 2004, allowing AR-15s to again be made with components useful for defensive purposes, including an adjustable-length stock (to match your physique, clothing, magazine- and armor-carrying chest rig, or backpack straps), a flash suppressor (to reduce your visual signature even during the day and to prevent you from temporarily blinding yourself at night), and a bayonet mount.

Since the ban expired, Americans have acquired another 15 million or so of the previously banned guns and hundreds of millions of the previously banned magazines, and the nation's annual murder rate has averaged 22 percent lower than during the 10 years the ban was in effect.

The AR-15 has, for the better part of the last two decades, been the most commonly acquired rifle in

America. Magazines holding more than 11 rounds are standard for AR-15s and handguns alike, and are designed to hold enough ammunition so that, ideally, defenders won't have to reload an empty gun while they're being attacked. At the same time, polls have consistently shown that most Americans who acquire guns do so for defensive purposes.

While the Taliban, other radical Islamists, and domestic leftists chant "Death to America," Americans ready to protect their lives and liberty are more inclined to say "lock and load."

Mark Overstreet is a firearm instructor and freelance writer in central Texas. He retired in 2016 as the senior research coordinator of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action, after 25 years with the organization. He is also retired from the Army Reserve, after 23 years. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the NRA or the Department of Defense. He can be reached at PanoplyTactical.com.

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thefederalist.com Sept. 9, 2021

Levi Strauss Blames Lawful Gun Owners for 'Gun Violence' in Communities of Color

By Larry Keane

Levi Strauss & Co. is not just a clothing company. They're the fashion of woke gun control groups.

On page 181 of Levi Strauss' Sustainability Report, the corporation blames criminal violence on lawful gun ownership, noting that it disproportionately targets communities of color.

It's interesting that Levi Strauss took a stand on so-called "gun violence" and not criminal violence, since that is where the actual problem lies. Their American headquarters is in San Francisco, where lawlessness is rampant.

Homicides were up at the mid-year mark, as was criminal misuse of firearms. So too were car break-ins, burglaries and auto-thefts. San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin was blasted by residents for failing to prosecute crimes from shoplifting to hate crimes. Boudin's been blamed for "emptying out jails and prisons, and removing bail."

Boudin's latest proposal is a "cash for criminals" pilot program to pay criminals \$300 a month to not shoot people. Anywhere other than San Francisco, that's called extortion.

Levi Strauss's Sustainability Report says, "In 2019 CEO Chip Bergh

joined with other CEOs to send a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives supporting the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. LS&Co. also led a CEO letter to the U.S. Senate calling for passage of background checks and red flag laws following several tragic mass shootings."

Levi Strauss, which also owns Dockers, Signature by Levi Strauss and Denizen Brands, embraced gun control in 2016. That was the year the corporation asked customers to no longer bring guns into their store, including law-abiding gun owners who had to undergo a background check to lawfully purchase their firearm and additional background checks to obtain a concealed carry permit.

In 2018, the clothing corporation announced a partnership with antigun billionaire Michael Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety gun control juggernaut. The corporation established the Safer Tomorrow Fund, which funds activists and nonprofits on "gun violence" issues.

Bergh wrote in Fortune at the time that he wasn't anti-Second Amendment, but when the corporation donates millions of dollars to groups like Everytown that want to ban entire classes of firearms instead of advocating for holding criminals accountable, it's hard to say it's not trying to chip away at gun rights.

Levi Strauss was nowhere to be found when the firearm industry pushed the FIX NICS Act. That's the law that provides states with the resources and compels federal agencies to submit all disqualifying adjudicated mental health and criminal records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Bloomberg and Levi Strauss aren't interested in the hard work of holding criminals accountable for their horrific crimes. Instead, they misdirect attention to those who have nothing to do with it. Levi Strauss's sustainability effort is a cheap knock off they're selling to woke customers.

Larry Keane is SVP for Government and Public Affairs, Assistant Secretary and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.--thetruthaboutguns.com Sept. 28, 2021

Hate on trial in Virginia, four years after deadly extremist rally

The 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Va. left one counter-demonstrator dead and revealed how well-organized the far right had become.

Jury selection is set for Monday in a case seen as the most sweeping attempt yet to hold to account those associated with the march, by turning to civil litigation in an attempt to put extremists out of business.

"We know that we can really bankrupt, disrupt and dismantle hate groups and their leaders through civil litigation," said Amy Spitalnick, executive director of Integrity First for America, a civil rights non-profit organization that is backing the lawsuit.

Kathleen Belew, a historian at the University of Chicago and author of *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*, said civil litigation has historically been important because criminal prosecution of violent white power activity has often failed.

The strategy was famously used by the Southern Poverty Law Center in several landmark anti-hate cases, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 1987, SPLC won a \$7-million judgment on behalf of Beulah Mae Donald, whose 19-year-old son was brutally murdered by members of United Klans of America in Mobile, Ala. The group had to turn over their building to Ms. Donald and the suit effectively shut down its activities.

Similarly, the SPLC won multimillion-dollar judgments from the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, Aryan Nations and Imperial Klans of America. They

were all forced into turning over their assets to satisfy court judgments.

"The Klan in the 80s had buildings and bank accounts that could be seized," said Scott McCoy, interim deputy legal director for LGBTQ rights and special litigation at the SPLC. "It's harder now because a lot of these groups have their assets in cryptocurrency and it's much harder to find and get at and attach those kind of assets."

McCoy represented Tanya Gersh, a Montana woman who sued Andrew Anglin in 2017 for organizing an anti-Semitic harassment campaign against her family.

Gersh won a \$14 million judgment against Anglin, but according to McCoy, Anglin has kept his money in Bitcoin, which has made it difficult to track.

"We are working with experts in the cryptocurrency world," he said. "They're helping us to try to find his assets."

Nonetheless, attorneys in the Virginia case say there's evidence that tying defendants up in a protracted and costly lawsuit has already disrupted their activity and influence.

"A number of them have said themselves that it has hampered their ability to go about business as usual," said Karen Dunn, an attorney in the Charlottesville case.

Roberta Kaplan, another attorney working on the Charlottesville case, said significant financial penalties through civil action sends important messages. First, that Americans will not tolerate hatred-fueled violence on their streets. And second, that those who engage in such activities will be held accountable — potentially for years and decades beyond the conclusion of the trial.

"These people are all going to owe, I believe at the end of this case, very, very large monetary judgments," Kaplan said. "And the law gives our clients the ability to chase them down with those money judgments until they are paid." -- www.npr.org/2021/10/25/

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

ISSN 1523-4657

Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". Or do a google search for "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email.

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